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All DNA oligonucleotides were purchased from Operon Technologies, Inc. (Alameda, Calif.). The SC series of oligonucleotides was a kind gift from Pat Brown (Department of Biochemistry, Stanford). The sequence of each is shown after its name and is written from 5' to 3'. HJ39, CACGTTGACTGAATC (SEQ ID NO: 53); HJ40, ACCGTCTTGAGGCAGAGT (SEQ ID NO: 54); HJ41, GGACTCTGCCTCAAGACGGTAGTCAACGTG (SEQ ID NO: 55); HJ42, CATGTCAAGCAGTCCTAACTTTGAGGCAGAGTCC (SEQ ID NO: 56); HJ43, CACGTTGACTACCGTC (SEQ ID NO: 57); HJ47, GTAGGAGATGTCCCTTGATGAATTC (SEQ ID NO: 58); SC1, CAGCAACGCAAGCTTG (SEQ ID NO: 59); SC2, TAGCAGGCTGCAGGTCGAC (SEQ ID NO: 60); SC3, GTCGACCTGCAGCCCAAGCTTGCGTTGCTG (SEQ ID NO: 61); SC4, AGGCTGCAGGTCGAC (SEQ ID NO: 62); SC5, ATGTGGAATCTCTAGCAGGCTGCAGGTCGAC (SEQ ID NO: 63); SC6, TGCTAGAGATTTCCACAT [(SEQ ID NO: 64)] (SEQ ID NO: 74). In addition, two RNA oligonucleotides were purchased from National Biosciences (Plymouth, Minn.). The sequence of each is shown after its name and is written from 5' to 3'. HJ49, GATGTCAAGCAGTCCTAACTTTGAGGCAGAGTCC; HJ50, CCCAGATACGG. Prior to use, each oligonucleotide was gel purified on a 15% denaturing polyacrylamide gel and recovered by 'crush and soak' (Sambrook et al., 1989).

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 7-9, 14, 51 and 59 as indicated below. For the convenience of the Examiner, a marked-up copy comparing the amended and unamended claims, illustrating any deleted subject matter within brackets and any inserted subject matter as underlined text, is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

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7. (Amended) A method of cleaving a polynucleotide, comprising the steps
of:
(a) contacting a sample suspected of containing a target nucleic acid of
interest, said target nucleic acid comprising a first portion and a second portion located
immediately 3' to the first portion, with: